

## Congress Approves Funding for Bridges at Jimmy Carter Boulevard and Pleasant Hill

Submitted by Gwinnett Place CID

This week the U.S. House and Senate approved transportation appropriations that includes funds to assist in replacing two bridges over Interstate 85 in Gwinnett County: Jimmy Carter Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road.

The funding included \$1 million for the Pleasant Hill Road project and \$500,000 from U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Decatur) for the Jimmy Carter Bridge.

This federal funding continues the momentum to replace the bridges championed by the Gwinnett Place CID and Gwinnett Village CID. Gwinnett County Commission Chairman Charles Bannister said replacing the bridges is critical to help incentivize revitalization in each of the CIDs.

"The business communities at Jimmy Carter and Pleasant Hill have been linchpins in Gwinnett's economy for decades," Bannister said. "I am grateful for the federal assistance for the improvements to both bridges, which will be key to the successful redevelopment of both areas."

County Transportation Director Brian Allen said Gwinnett County will continue to support the CIDs' efforts leading up to replacing the bridges.

"The county has shown its commitment to the projects with SPLOST funds, and we look forward to working with both CIDs, the federal government and the state to improve the interchanges so that commerce can again flow freely through these important business hubs," Allen said.

The Gwinnett Village CID has secured more than \$12.5 million for the Jimmy Carter Boulevard Bridge Replacement project, including federal, CID and county SPLOST funds.

Gwinnett Village CID is well underway with design of the new bridge, which includes three additional lanes and upgraded signalization, according to Chuck Warbington, Executive Director Gwinnett Village CID.

"This project will bring much needed relief to congestion in the area," Warbington said. "We are excited knowing that this project is moving and will be a catalyst for positive improvements in the area."

At Pleasant Hill Road, the Gwinnett Place CID has identified up to 20 percent of local funding - including CID and county dollars - for the Pleasant Hill Road Bridge replacement project, said Gwinnett Place CID Board Chairman Mark Williams.

"This new support greatly enhances the project and puts it in an even better position for completion," Williams said. "I am more encouraged than ever that we will bring a newer, better bridge to provide greater access and service to the businesses of Gwinnett Place."

The Gwinnett Place CID recently contracted with URS Corp. to begin the preliminary engineering tasks associated with replacing the existing bridge. The ultimate goal is to install a higher-capacity system known as a single-point urban interchange to better accommodate traffic volumes.

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